

BOOK REVIEWS

Butterflies of the Australian region. Bernard D'Abbrera. 1971. Lansdowne (distributed by Entomological Reprints. Specialists, Los Angeles, California). 415 pp. \$39.95.

This is a systematic account of butterflies of the Australian region, prepared as an illustrated guide. Instead of using keys, the author has provided an illustrated guide, using type specimens from the British Museum as well as from his own collection. An introductory section deals with the place of butterflies in nature, mimicry and protective resemblance, variation, nomenclature and classification, and a short history of the collection and study of butterflies in the Australian region. The nine groups of butterflies, Papilionidae, Picridae, Danaidae, Nymphalidae, Libytheidae, Satyridae, Amathusiidae, Lycaenidae, and Riodinidae are pictured on 350 pages, followed by a selected bibliography and an index. To complete this work, the author traveled on field expeditions throughout the region, using with great skill his Asahi Pentax Spotmatic camera with a 50 mm Super Macro-Takumar lens and available light conditions. The photographs were made on Ektachrome and high-speed Ektachrome film and the stunning results have to be seen to be believed.

This work is written in a very readable and informative style. Over 3,000 color photographs are reproduced and the color rendition of these is amazingly good. The book is important because it fills a gap in entomological literature and is among the first publications on this subject in nearly 50 years. The unusually rich population of butterflies of the Australian area is covered thoroughly and authoritatively. The beauty of the volume is enhanced by the artistic outlay throughout the book. Identification of the many different species is made easy by the life-size, superb illustrations. The author of this useful book is to be congratulated not only for the enormous amount of essential information it contains but also for the timely publication, greatly needed at this time because of the half-century gap of information on this subject. I am told that the cost of a single large-color page, if printed in the Western Hemisphere, would surpass \$1,000, and I have never seen a book so lavishly illustrated and comparatively priced. The secret probably lies, in part at least, in the choice of the printer, Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd., in Hong Kong. The printing is remarkably free of typographical errors. The book will be an essential reference and, in addition to libraries, might find numerous buyers among those who are interested in the sheer beauty of exotic butterflies. It certainly can be read with equal interest by both expert and layman.

K. MARAMOROSCH

Maize Rough Dwarf: A Planthopper Virus Disease Affecting Maize, Rice, Small Grains and Grasses. Isaac Harpaz. 1972. Israel Universities Press, Jerusalem. 251 pp. \$20.

The interactions between planthopper vectors and the virus that causes the important disease of maize, known as rough dwarf since 1949, are described in this monograph. The disease occurs in the Mediterranean area. The author, professor of entomology at the Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University at Rehovot, Israel, was the first to establish the viral nature of the disease, and he also contributed significantly to its understanding and control. The geographic distribution of the vectors and the disease, the economic importance to corn-growing countries, symptomatology, host range of the virus in plants as well as in various species of planthoppers in which the virus multiplies, aspects of insect transmission and virus-vector interactions, including harmful effects on planthoppers, and virus purification and electron microscopy are discussed. Special attention is given to the morphology and biology of vector species, the epiphytology and the control of the disease. Work carried out in Italy, Czechoslovakia, Scandinavian countries, Britain, Germany, Japan, southeast Asia, the Soviet Union, Latin America, Africa, and Australia on planthopper vectors is